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Belleville, Ill. First Presby-
terian church
Souvenir centennial
history...

(1939)



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Centennial History

OF THE

**First
Presbyterian Church**

of Belleville, Illinois



1839 DECEMBER 14th 1939

Souvenir Centennial History

of the

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS

Issued by the

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

as appointed by and with the consent of the Session

1839 ————— DECEMBER 14th ————— 1939



"OUR FIRST CHURCH"

CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

BERT R. STIFF

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WILLIAM H. CAMPBELL

JAMES J. McMILLAN, Sr.

JOHN T. HUECKEL

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ROGERS D. JONES

D. ARTHUR TODD

IRVIN J. LEOPOLD

MISS MARGARET GUNN

REV. D. C. BOYD, Ex-Officio



OUR PRESENT CHURCH AT DEDICATION IN 1876

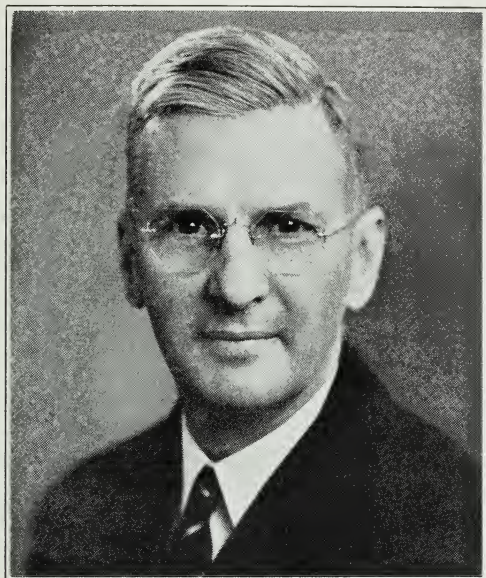
Pastors from 1839 to 1939

Name of Minister	Installation	Relation Dissolved
Thomas Lippencott.....	Dec. 14, 1839	Dec. 14, 1840
Wm. Chamberlain.....1840	Aug. 1, 1842
H. B. Whitaker.....	Oct. 1, 1842	Apr. 1, 1843
Wm. E. Chittenden.....	Apr. 21, 1844	Sept. 15, 1846
James R. Dunn, Assistant and pulpit supply for Chittenden.....1846	June 1, 1847
Benoni J. Messinger.....	June 17, 1847	Nov. 1, 1847
Jos. A. Ranney.....	Nov. 1, 1847	Sept. 3, 1854
John Gibson.....	Jan. 4, 1855	Nov. 1, 1855
W. W. Warner.....	Nov. 1, 1855	Nov. 1, 1856
Benjamin F. Cole	Each preached at different intervals	July 10, 1857
W. F. P. Noble		
Andrew J. Luce.....	Nov. 1, 1857	Nov. 1, 1864
Orid Minor, Assistant to Rev. Luce.....	Nov. 1, 1863	May 1, 1869
John H. Dillingham.....	May 15, 1869	May 1, 1871
James Brownlee.....	May 1, 1871	May 1, 1872
Garret Heyson	Each preached at different intervals	Feb. 1, 1873
Henry W. Woods		

Services held in the First M. E. Church 1873 to 1875—New church under construction

Oscar S. Thompson.....	May 2, 1875	Sept. 22, 1882
Charles T. Phillips.....	Dec. 1, 1882	Apr. 1, 1892
John B. Pomeroy.....	Apr. 1, 1892	July 1, 1896
J. G. Klene.....	Oct. 12, 1896	July 1, 1898
J. A. Gallaher.....	Nov. 10, 1898	Nov. 1, 1903
Wm. N. Gardner.....	Jan. 13, 1904	Dec. 9, 1908
Charles A. Highfield.....	Apr. 9, 1909	Nov. 21, 1917
W. N. Elliot.....	Apr. 3, 1918	Sept. 10, 1919
E. W. McCluskey.....	Jan. 7, 1920	Sept. 18, 1922
Wm. C. Meeker.....	Sept. 29, 1922	May 1, 1929
D. C. Boyd.....	Nov. 10, 1929

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THE loyalty and devotion of Presbyterians in this first century of our life has made this church great. We can never overestimate it; we can never over-praise it.

The loyalty and devotion of you — our members today — and your children's children will keep this inheritance intact for a century to come.

May God continue to bless this church and its people!

D. C. BOYD, Minister

3974
Q/W

Officers of the Church

ELDERS

REV. D. C. BOYD, Moderator

JOHN GIBSON, (Emeritus)
ROBERT SEIBERT, Clerk
R. A. ALEXANDER
WM. H. CAMPBELL
NORMAN N. GOULD
EDW. G. HEXTER

JOHN T. HUECKEL
I. D. MARSH
HARRY W. MATHEWS
JAMES J. McMILLAN, Sr.
GEO. B. M. ROGERS
B. W. TILLMAN

DEACONS

ROGERS D. JONES
GEO. A. REIFEL
D. ARTHUR TODD

JAMES E. TRABUE
EUGENE WITTLICH
S. D. VALE

TRUSTEES

JAMES S. LOVELL, Chairman
C. C. DREMAN, Vice-Chairman
RAYMOND A. EHRET, Secretary
A. O. HICKCOX, Treasurer
DR. EDMOND BECHTOLD
DR. C. E. BALDREE, Jr.
WALDO GEISSLER
ROGERS D. JONES

AL. H. L. KLEMME
IRVIN J. LEOPOLD
HUGH H. MACE
BERT R. STIFF
WM. SCHMIDT, Jr.
KENNETH S. WAGNER
FRED H. ZWETSCHKE
B. W. TILLMAN

BUILDING COMMITTEE

AL. H. L. KLEMME, Chairman
ROGERS D. JONES
C. C. DREMAN

* * *

Women's Societies

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Mrs. Emmett R. Keim.....Pres.
Mrs. Jesse F. Schrei.....Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Ed. G. Hexter.....Secy.-Treas.

THE UTOPIAN SOCIETY

Mrs. John T. Hueckel.....Pres.
Mrs. Henry A. Lengfelder.....Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Adolph Fehr.....Secy.-Treas.

THE PARTHENIAN SOCIETY

Mrs. John C. Gunn.....Pres.
Miss Effie Maxie.....Vice-Pres.
Mrs. Henry Kolb.....Secy.-Treas.

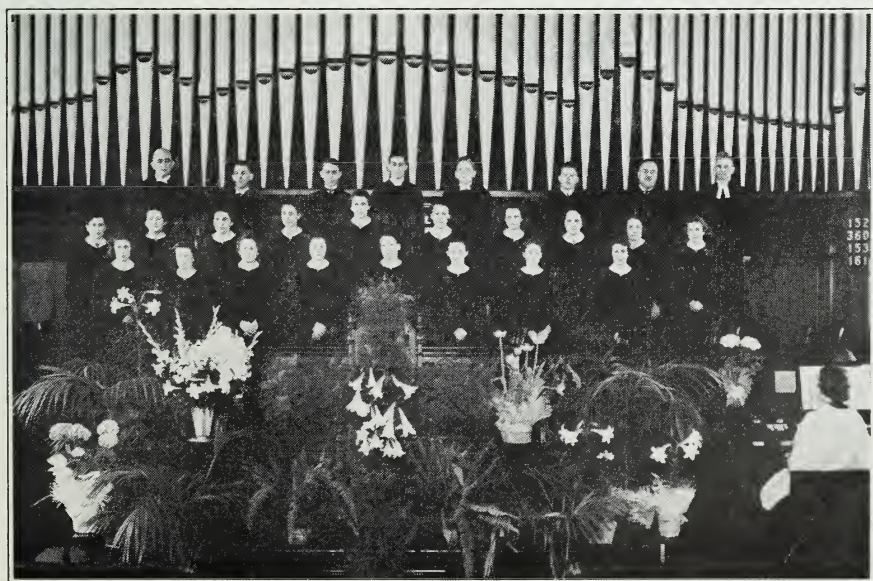
THE MARY-MARTHA SOCIETY

Mrs. Loren E. Lewis.....Pres.
Mrs. William G. Dixon.....Vice-Pres.
Mrs. J. E. Bennett.....Secy.
Mrs. Edw. B. Taff.....Treas.



PHOTOGRAPH BY ADVOCATE

PRESENT CHURCH AT OUR CENTENNIAL, DECEMBER 14, 1939



OUR VESTED CHOIR—EASTER, 1939

PHOTOGRAPH BY MERKER

A Historical Sketch

of the First Presbyterian Church of Belleville, Ill., from its organization to the present time, December 14, 1939.

1839 — 1889

In compliance with the request of the session, made December 3rd, 1894, "that Elders C. T. Elles and Edward Wm. West should prepare a history of the First Presbyterian Church and Sabbath School from their organization to the present time," your committee would beg leave to present the following paper on the Church History as the result of their labors:

In the preparation of this history we have been furnished valuable aid from the records of the church, *The History of the Presbyterian Church of Illinois*, by the Rev. Augustus Theodore Norton, D. D., and the semi-centennial sermon preached by Rev. C. T. Phillips at the public celebration, December 14, 1889.

As the most important items have been obtained from these most reliable sources, this paper may be regarded as a compilation of facts made ready by the hands of others, in which the very language used is herein employed.

Of the general accuracy of dates and statements made in regard to events and persons, in this brief history, we feel assured that it may be confidently relied on as worthy of belief.

In its hasty preparation your committee realizes the incompleteness of this sketch, so far below the merits of the subject; but indulge the hope that, with all its imperfections, it may stimulate the members of this church to hold in more profound veneration those who labored in the years that are past, and the fruits of whose devotion we now enjoy. In accepting this noble heritage from our fathers, let us resolve with divine help, to emulate their fidelity, so that those who succeed us may also cherish our memories.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

C. T. ELLES,
EDWARD WM. WEST,
Committee

The first regular Presbyterian Church positively known to have been organized in the United States was at Snow Hill, Md., established in 1684 by Francis Makemie, who was born near Rathmelton, Donegal County, Ireland, and who studied at one of the Scotch Universities. He was a most self-denying, laborious itinerant Presbyterian minister traveling - - preaching and visiting in Maryland, Virginia and New York.

The first Presbytery in this country was called the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and was formed in 1705 or 1706. It consisted of seven ministers—Francis Makemie, John Hampton, George McNish, Samuel Davis, John Wilson, Jedidiah Andrews and Nathaniel Taylor.

The first Assembly met in 1790, and was opened by Dr. John Witherspoon, who was a lineal descendant from John Knox, President of New Jersey College, and a signer of the Declaration of Independence; and Dr. John Rodgers of New York was Moderator.

Illinois Territory was organized into a County by the Legislature of Virginia on the 12th of December, 1778, Patrick Henry then being the Governor of the State. It constituted a part of the great Northwest Territory until the year A. D. 1784, when it was ceded to the United States by Virginia, and Governor Ninian Edwards was appointed Governor in 1809 by President Madison.

In the year 1814 Samuel J. Mills made a missionary tour with Daniel Smith, as his associate, passing through the Territories of Indiana and Illinois to St. Louis, that village not containing more than two thousand inhabitants at that time, and Illinois Territory not more than fifteen thousand souls, with not one Presbyterian minister stationed or laboring within its bounds.

The next year was to witness a change. The Church of Sharon in what is now White County, is the oldest Presbyterian Church in Illinois. It was organized by the Rev. James McGready of Henderson, Ky., in 1816, probably in the month of September.

Turkey Hill Church, organized by the Rev. Salmon Giddings, April 20, 1820, was the first Presbyterian Church in St. Clair County, Illinois.

Turkey Hill proper was four miles southeast of Belleville and was the first American settlement outside of the American Bottom in the County, which was commenced by Wm. Scott, Samuel Shook and Franklin Jarvis in the year 1798. At the house of Deacon Josiah Crocker, who was supposed to be one of the Elders, meetings of Turkey Hill Church were often held, although he lived several miles north. They never had a house of worship or regular preaching.

Belleville Church, the first one formed, was organized by the Rev. John F. Brooks, Sabbath, January 9th, 1833, with Alfred Cowles, Charlotte Cowles, Thomas Scott, Jane E. Brooks, Samuel Van Arsdale and Harrich C. Alexander as members.

Alfred Cowles and Thomas Scott were made Elders.

After the organization there were admitted to the Church, Dr. Joseph Green, Thomas H. Kimber, David Swyer, Louisa Swyer and Sarah Patterson.

Rev. John F. Brooks also taught school here. He was a ripe scholar, a devoted Christian, and ministered to the Church during its existence, as he removed in the spring of 1837 to the capital of the State. This church was organized and worshipped in a brick building on the corner of Second South, and High Streets, that had been erected as a Town Hall by several enterprising citizens in the year 1819. Among them were Major Ringold, William Glasgow, Mr. Cohen, Daniel Murry and Wilkinson.

This house was used for public services by the members of the different denominations of Christianity and for school purposes until the year 1851, when it was removed, and its site occupied as the residence of William Buchanan. The congregation also worshipped in a small room on the east side of High Street, two doors south of Main, that was owned by Mr. Brooks. Until the year 1829 there was not one church building in the county outside of Cahokia, and ministers of the gospel would have to preach either in private houses, sometimes in the groves, and in the Court House. This latter place was occupied in Belleville about the year 1832 by two distinguished Presbyterian ministers, Rev. Theon Baldwin and Albert Hale, and through their ministration David Swyer received his first religious impressions that guided his future life.

In the year 1839 the Rev. Thomas Lippencott began preaching in the Court House, situated in the Public Square, near the corner north of the intersection of Main street and east Illinois street, and in December the 14th, 1839, the Rev. A. J. Norton, D. D., since then the Synodical Missionary of the Old Synod of Illinois, South, and Rev. Thomas Lippencott organized this present Church, now legally known as the First Presbyterian Church of Belleville. The original members were: Wm. E. Chittenden, Thomas H. Kimber, Alonzo Dewey, Mrs. Sarah Dewey, Miss Scripta Elder, and Miss Ester Corinth Dewey, who were received by letters, and David Miley, Mrs. Phoebe Miley and Charles T. Elles, on profession of their faith. Having adopted the Confession of Faith of the Presbyterian Church, they proceeded to choose two ruling Elders, and Wm. E. Chittenden and Thomas H. Kimber were elected by ballot. The sermon was preached by Rev. A. J. Norton when the organization of the church was completed, and the Elders-elect were ordained. A resolution that is worthy of special mention was adopted by that church, of which Rev. C. T. Phillips says that "It spoke volumes for the little circle thus cemented in gospel bonds." If this were the resolution and practice of all our Churches, there would be few feeble and no dead ones: "Resolved, That we will see that the regular worship of God shall be kept up in this house on every Sabbath, whether our minister be with us or not."

The first Church home of this congregation was built by Elder Thomas H. Kimber, on the corner of Second North and Jackson Streets. For many years it stood there, and was only removed to make room for the new Baptist parsonage and church.

After the organization of the Church, Rev. Thomas Lippencott remained and preached for about one year, receiving for his services about \$200 from the congregation. The balance, \$200, from the Board of Home Missions. His mental abilities were of a fair order; he was an earnest speaker; his moral character was complete; his Christian character without fault. Without being brilliant, he was rather like a star—steadily shining, clear and fixed.

In October, 1841, a protracted meeting was held by Rev. William Chamberlain, assisted by the Rev. James Gallaher, a very distinguished evangelist, at which time twenty-four were added to the Church by profession. Amongst the number was Russel Hinkley. And the pastoral care of the church was exercised by the Rev. Wm. Chamberlain until the 1st of August, 1842, when Rev. H. Whitaker was invited to preach for one year.

In August, 1843, the Church rented a house on the east side of High street, two doors south of Main, where prayer meetings, preaching, Sabbath school and singing school, conducted by Brother Elles, and day school, taught by Miss Chamberlain, daughter of Rev. Wm. Chamberlain, were held while the first brick church was being built, and where the Rev. Wm. Chamberlain preached from time to time. Few men have overcome greater obstacles than he in gaining an education and in his preparation for the ministry, to which he devoted his life with a zeal that was blessed to the building up of many churches and the saving of many precious souls.

In this year Henry Batz and David Swyer were elected Ruling Elders, and ordained by Rev. Wm. Chamberlain, David Swyer and his wife having joined the Church August 21, 1842.

A meeting was also held in August, 1842, at which the Rev. H. B. Whitaker assisted. The meeting was abundantly blessed, and ten persons were added to the roll of the church—six by profession and four by certificate. Rev. Henry B. Whitaker labored from August 1, 1842, to April, 1843.

April 21, 1844, Rev. Wm. E. Chittenden was installed as pastor and the little flock, that had worshipped in a rented house, resolved to rise up and build, with the blessing of God and by great self-sacrifice, a permanent Church home.

On the 28th of March, 1844, the Church became a corporate body, in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois, under the name of the First New School Presbyterian Church of Belleville.

E. B. Lockwood, C. T. Elles and Sam Hinkley were elected Trustees.

That Church was built on the southeast corner of Illinois street and First North. The lot fronted thirty feet on Illinois street and running east on First North sixty feet; was donated by Mr. James Mitchell, to which ten more feet on Illinois street were added, at the cost of \$150.00.

Elder C. T. Elles was treasurer of the Church at that time, and a most faithful record is preserved of the length, breadth, depth and height of the stone wall for the foundation, the number of perches of rock, the number of thousand of brick for the superstructure. Indeed, no item for its construction in stone, brick, wood or iron is omitted, every day's labor paid for is mentioned, and a more faithful account of the cost of each and every item was never kept, from the digging of the foundation to the completion of the edifice. And it would be equally as pleasant to give in detail every dollar expended and the names of the noble-hearted and generous contributors who furnished material, labor or money for the construction of this house, so endeared to them all. This precious record shows the industry exercised, and economy practiced, for it was finished at the cost of two thousand five hundred and thirty-two dollars and sixty-nine cents, and dedicated on Saturday, November 9th, 1844. The Rev. Luke Lyons preached the dedicatory sermon.

Mr. Chittenden came to Belleville as cashier of the bank, a branch of the State Bank of Illinois. He was a very efficient officer, and studied for the ministry by advice of the Presbytery of Alton, which licensed him April 5, 1844, and ordained him April 21, 1844. His services were very acceptable to this Church, with which he labored faithfully until he was dismissed September 15, 1846. He received for his service each year two hundred dollars from the church. The Home Missionary Society furnished the other two hundred. In 1845 he engaged Rev. James R. Dunn for six months to preach in his stead, while he went to New York where he collected one hundred and twenty-five dollars for the church. Rev. Benoni Y. Messinger was called June 17, 1847, and was paid one hundred dollars for supplying the pulpit six months.

Rev. Joseph Addison Ranney began his work in November, 1847, and was installed May 19, 1848. Rev. Thos. Lippencott, the founder of the Church, presided and delivered the charge to the pastor. Rev. L. Grosvenor preached the sermon, and Rev. H. Blodgett charged the people. Mr. Ranney was a good preacher, and a firm believer in discipline. Under his ministry card playing, dancing and liquor drinking were vigorously discouraged, and the Christian sentiment of the Church upheld and sustained his firmness.

June 11, 1848, Wm. H. Underwood was ordained an Elder of this Church after the usual manner.

March 31, 1850, C. T. Elles and Russell Hinckley were chosen Elders, and on April 7, 1850, the Church celebrated the Lord's Supper,

and the Elders-elect were regularly ordained. There was a steady increase of the Church during the pastorate of Rev. J. H. Ranney, which terminated September 3, 1854. He was an able minister, his watchfulness over his flock was tender and faithful. Exemplary in his life almost to a fault, he raised a high standard and drew his people to it. It was the privilege of the Church to give him a cordial greeting on two subsequent visits here, and hear his voice, full of admonition and encouragement, and see again his face, that revived the tenderest emotions. Rev. John Gibson succeeded him, as he presided over the session meeting, January 4, 1855, leaving the following November. Rev. John Gibson was a gifted minister, never using a note in preaching, but his sermons were rich in matter, and highly instructive. He was social in disposition and affable in manner; his smile was sunny; his wit sparkling, and was an authority on all constitutional and doctrinal questions.

In 1855 and 1856, Rev. W. W. Warner was called, and preached one year, and in the meeting of the session on January 31, 1856, Edward Wm. West was examined and admitted to church membership. Six hundred dollars were paid Rev. W. W. Warner for his services. Rev. Benjamin F. Cole was engaged for a short period, followed by Rev. W. F. P. Noble, who was employed two months until July 10, 1857.

Rev. Andrew J. Luce was called in November, 1857, and installed as pastor November, 1858, laboring until 1863, when he went into the army as a chaplain, and was mustered out of service in October, 1864, and in November following the pastoral relations were mutually dissolved. Rev. A. J. Luce was a safe counselor; he visited his flocks diligently; he was a peacemaker, and under his care the Church was blessed, although the sad and terrible war tried all hearts.

During a portion of the years 1864 and 1865, in the absence of Pastor Luce, Rev. Orid Minor was called as stated supply. He possessed rare qualifications as a preacher, he endeared himself to all classes, he was eloquent, and his discourses were marked by unusual fervor. He was an untiring worker, and made lasting friends as a temperance advocate—amongst that class whose sins he most pointedly reproved, for they felt assured that, while he hated their sins, he still loved the sinner.

Rev. John H. Dillingham served for three years, from May 15, 1869. He and his sister, Miss Sarah, possessed fine voices, and the service of song was greatly encouraged.

Rev. James Brownlee followed for one year, and he was succeeded by the Rev. Garret Heyson in 1871, when Rev. Henry W. Woods was called, and ministered to the church from November, 1871, to February, 1873, one year and three months.

At this time the city had increased in size, and the extension of the market house, with the usual noise and traffic, rendered it necessary to sell the church, that had become unsuitable for religious purposes, dear as it was by very many reminiscences—where deeds of love had been done, harvests of precious souls had been gathered in for the Master, eloquent sermons had been preached, and many children brought into the Sabbath school.

April 19, 1873, the old Church was sold to the city for \$4,500.00, \$500.00 being paid down, and the balance, \$4,000.00, on September 8th, Dr. A. J. Norton preaching a historical farewell sermon in July, before the Church was given up to the city.

In the fall of 1871 a committee was appointed to select a location for a new church, and on the 4th of February, 1872, it was unanimously agreed to purchase the lot on which this building now stands.

As an evidence of our gratitude and joy for the reunion of the Old and New School branches of the Presbyterian Church, a subscription was started to buy a lot for a new church and parsonage, and on the 3rd of February, 1872, the lot was bought of Louis P. Krafft for the sum of \$2800.00, situated on the west side of High street, its dimensions being 77½ feet on High, running back 165 feet. Numerous plans for the new structure were submitted, but a selection was made March 28, 1874, and David Swyer, Joseph Small and Russell Hinckley were appointed a Building Committee. The corner-stone of this building, viz.: the southeast corner, was laid July 15, 1874, by the Elders and Trustees. The formal ceremonies were by Rev. A. T. Norton, D. D.; Rev. C. H. Foote, D. D., and J. W. Allen, D. D., of St. Louis. In the corner-stone were deposited, a copper box, containing a Bible, Catechism, Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church of Belleville, the membership roll, list of subscribers to the membership fund, a copy of the New York Evangelist, sketch of the General Assembly of 1874, a picture of the now dismantled First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, in which the General Assembly met that year; local papers, containing the account of the formal opening of the great Eads Bridge at St. Louis; roll of the General Assembly of 1874, local statistics of St. Clair County, coins, fractional currency of the United States; notices of the comet visible in the northern heavens. During the services rain began to fall, and the final services were held in the First M. E. Church.

In the construction of this building the closest vigilance was exercised in the procuring and use of the best and soundest material, and most perfect workmanship, and in 1874 the basement was completed and occupied. In 1876 it was resolved by the congregation to finish the audience room, and carry up the steeple, and when Elder David Swyer, chairman of the Building Committee, handed the keys to Brother Elles, whose statement was submitted as treasurer, showing that the entire cost of lot and house was \$21,476.90.

This beautiful building was completed and the dedicatory sermon was preached by the Rev. James H. Brooks, D. D., on the 9th day of July, 1876. As this sum exceeded the subscription largely, and the purchase of an organ, for \$1800.00 had been made, the church was confronted with a debt of \$6000.00, and the Trustees were instructed to insure the property and execute a mortgage for that sum, which was executed July 30, 1879, and on the 4th day of April, 1881, was finally transferred to the Belleville Savings Bank, that demanded only six per cent interest per annum. It is but simple justice to acknowledge the uniform courtesy and leniency of that institution for about ten years, bringing no pressure upon us, but using the greatest patience and forbearance. The mortgage was finally cancelled in 1889.

To the liberality of the citizens of Belleville who helped us most royally, our gratitude must be ever due. The unexampled devotion of the Ladies' Society, of the Sunday school, and individual members of the church will ever remain a vivid illustration of the power of self-sacrificing love.

As Brother E. W. West was chairman of the meeting which authorized the giving of the mortgage in 1879, so he was chairman of the meeting in 1889, which was called to receive official notice of its cancellation—a joyful and gratifying event it was, indeed.

In resuming our history of the laborers in this church, we find that Rev. Oscar Silas Thompson began here May 2, 1875, and was installed pastor October 21, 1877, and continued as pastor and supply until September 22, 1882. In this pastorate of seven years and four months, one of the longest in the history of the church, many important events transpired. The death of Judge W. H. Underwood, which occurred on the 23rd of September, 1875, cast a shadow over the church, for a strong and polished pillar had been removed. Yet additions were made to the church and congregation, when the audience chamber was occupied, and the sound of the organ, united with the full volume of human voices, filled the house with thanksgiving and praise to God. Edward Wm. West was elected to the eldership, to take the place of Judge W. H. Underwood, on the 5th of December, 1875, and ordained to that office January 2, 1876. At the congregational meeting held April 30, 1878, of which proper notice had been given, Joseph Small and James McQuilkin were unanimously elected ruling Elders and installed. July 28, 1879, Elder C. T. Elles tendered his resignation as treasurer, an office he had held since 1843, before the first church had been built, more than thirty-six consecutive years, enjoying all that time the unbounded confidence of the church, to be succeeded in Office by Elder McQuilkin, whose record during the last sixteen years reflects the highest credit upon himself and an honor to any church. It is to be regretted that a ministry begun under so favorable auspices should be marred, and that any mistakes should have been made by word or deed, but the best men have

erred, and the wisest counselors have been at fault, for it is written of Moses, the man of God, that "he spake unadvisedly with his lips," and "The counsel of Ahithofel was turned into foolishness." An imperative demand upon the energies and resources of the membership, after praiseworthy efforts had been conscientiously made in completing the church, and building the parsonage exasperated some of the most influential; and the enforcement of discipline on others alienated the feeling of several so that the unity of the church was imperiled and its strength impaired. The Lord in mercy guided the church, the faithful clung to the ark, dissensions ceased, and peace and quiet were restored. September 26, 1882, the resignation of Rev. O. S. Thompson was accepted, and Rev. Dr. Hurd was appointed by the Alton Presbytery to pronounce the pulpit vacant.

December 1, 1882, Rev. Charles T. Phillips accepted the call from this church, and entered upon the duties of the pastorate at a salary of \$1000 per year and the use of the parsonage. The church was not slow to recognize the ability of our leader to fill the pulpit, and to meet the expectations demanded of a devoted and able pastor. The members became united and inspired with a deeper devotion to the interest of the church. The congregation increased in size, and the prayer-meetings in numbers, our harps were taken down from the willows and the church was revived. Our Sabbath schools flourished and the societies auxiliary to the church were instituted, encouraging the labors and activities of the youth. Until 1884 every pecuniary obligation of the church had been faithfully met by the congregation, or individual members. About that time several of our faithful contributors died or moved away, universal depression in business prevailed, many of our number sustained serious reverses of fortune, and our heavy debt had become due. The long strain upon our pastor, whose labors in the pulpit were almost without intermission, with health enfeebled by service in the army, having endured its sufferings and privations and shared all its dangers, began to tell upon his health, and that he lived through it, weighed down with the burden of the debt beside, is to those who knew his keenly sensitive nature simply wonderful.

Different resolutions were passed looking to its extinguishment and several devices proposed, but all expedients were only partially successful, until the members rose to the emergency and pledged themselves for the payment of such an amount that an appeal could honorably be made to the generous citizens of our country and city. He threw the energies of his soul into this movement, and labored as no other man would have done, and succeeded, with the blessing of God, although he knew it was impoverishing himself and family by exhausting the resources of the church. Wondrous magnanimity and self-sacrifice. We can never cancel the debt of gratitude we owe him. One recompense we had—he enjoyed the celebration, with us all, of the fiftieth anniversary jubilee, December 14, 1889, and witnessed the cancellation of the mortgage amidst the rejoicing of the Church.

Our prayers have followed him and his family to his field of labor in a sister presbytery, and we receive him with gladness of heart when he comes again in our midst to renew by his social visits and live over again the experiences of the past delightful intercourse amongst a people he loved and who delighted to honor him. The pastoral relations that had subsisted so long between him and this church having been sundered at his request, with our reluctant consent, by order of the Presbytery, Rev. James Lafferty preached the sermon pronouncing the pulpit vacant.

At a meeting of the congregation April 4, 1892, a resolution to call John B. Pomeroy, at a salary of \$1000 per annum, from August 1, 1892, was unanimously adopted, which call was accepted and Brother E. W. West was appointed commissioner to convey the action of the church to the Alton Presbytery, and installation services were held. During this year and the years 1893 and 1894 large accessions were made to the membership, and it was thought advisable to increase the Board of Elders. The session having nominated as candidates for that office William H. Powell, C. C. Johnson, C. C. Hall and Samuel P. Hyde, they, being unanimously elected by the church at a congregational meeting duly called, were solemnly ordained as Ruling Elders on Sabbath, November 5, 1893. At this time all the effective agencies of the church were in good working order. The Sabbath school was in a flourishing condition, new trustees had been elected, Deacons selected and large visiting committees to canvass the city, besides the Junior and Senior Endeavor Societies. It might be truly said that the church was harmonious and in a healthy state, but still a cloud overshadowed us. It was a debt, long due Brother Elles, for about \$475.00. The payment of this amount was effected last fall by the strenuous efforts (1894) of the Ladies Auxiliary Society of the Presbyterian Church. And it may be appropriate just at this crisis to recall the resolutions that stand recorded as unanimously approved April 11, 1889, and reaffirm them as ours, to-wit: "Believing that God Blesses us in the use of proper means, we hereby order that no lien shall ever again be placed upon this house, dedicated to God. That no debt shall be contracted for any purpose whatever, or allowed to be made, except it may be for the absolutely indispensable expenses of maintaining stated worship.

"It shall be the settled policy of this congregation to undertake no work involving an outlay of money until the needed amount shall have been secured by cash, or equivalent subscriptions."

Again, copying from Brother Phillips' semi-centennial sermon, he says, that this church has never been strong in membership; in the first thirty years it had, altogether, 244 members—105 received by letters and 139 by professions of faith. Additions to the present time increase the number enrolled to 606. Of this total amount many have passed over to their reward, many dismissed to other church fellowship, some dropped, so that at this time there are not more than

118 active and working members. The exact amount of money raised and expended for all legitimate purposes cannot be given, but that it is in excess of \$100,000 is certain, and it speaks volumes for the liberality and devotion of a church comparatively weak. It would be gratifying to mention the names of many members whose generosity, active services and zeal in the church's growth and welfare, both amongst the women and the men, have made them conspicuous and entitled to the grateful remembrance of this generation, but as it might be regarded invidious, we will simply refer them to the records, which speak so eloquently of their deeds.

Among the noble band of brethren who have won the especial regards of their co-laborers and the church through its whole history, whose deserved praise excites no envy, whose name is peerless amongst the most illustrious, the only one still spared us of the first organization, we dare not omit mention of our venerable Elder Charles T. Elles. His life's history is that of the church, and this is the record Rev. C. T. Phillips gives: "All are gone except him, who has weathered the storms of adversity and trial, has held the wheel with a firm hand when it seemed that he would be swept away, has labored as no other man has labored, has struggled as no other man has struggled, has sacrificed as few men have sacrificed; has never spared himself labor or expense. Father never loved a child with more unselfish devotion than he has loved this church. Lover was never more jealous of aught that could mar the peace of his loved one than he has been of anything that could affect its welfare. He has ever been one who could sing:

"I love thy church, O God. Her walls before thee stand,
Dear as the apple of thine eye, and graven on thy hand.
For her my tears shall fall, for her my prayers ascend,
To her my toils and cares be given, till toils and cares shall end.
Beyond my highest joys I prize her heavenly ways,
Her sweet communion solemn vows; her hymns of love and praise."

"Without disparagement to any who have labored and entered into rest, while Brother Elles is here, I prefer to clear my conscience and lovingly lay this chaplet of flowers on his living head. May a merciful God long permit him to remain in the shade of the trees his faithful hands helped to plant more than fifty years ago."

Of the twenty ministers and pastors who have labored in this church not a death has occurred in the whole number while they occupied this pulpit. The longest terms of service were enjoyed by Rev. Joseph A. Ranney, A. J. Luce, O. S. Thompson and C. T. Phillips, and each one witnessed a gracious revival and rejoiced in the increase of a precious harvest, that has been participated in by the present incumbent, Rev. J. B. Pomeroy, whose privilege it was to welcome at one time fifty-two members into the fold of this church. As it is intended to add an especial chapter in regard to the Sabbath school, a school of which we may be justly proud, and whose in-

fluence for good has been widely felt in this community, it is not necessary for us, in this connection, to speak. This church has met its responsibility fully in inviting the Presbyteries, Synods, Sabbath School Conventions, Temperance and Missionary Societies to hold their sessions here, and the families of the church have given a hearty welcome and generous hospitality to the delegates of these several organizations.

The happiness and welfare of the children of the church and Sabbath school have ever enlisted our sympathies, and entertainments have been liberally provided on all usual festival days, and our social meetings have kept alive the spirit of brotherly love among the members.

As many facts worthy of mention and matters of deep importance in regard to the past have been necessarily omitted in this history, but may be of interest to those who come after us, we would impress upon this congregation their duty to immediately make provisions for the safety and jealous care of the old records of this church.

A narrative of the history of the church would be incomplete without mention of the service of song, that has formed such an essential part of divine worship. Fourteen hundred years before the advent of the Messiah, when Moses and the children of Israel sang unto the Lord the song of Triumph for their deliverance at the Red Sea; when Miriam, the Prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hands, and all the women went out with timbrels and dances; yea from the time when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy, until David spake and said, serve the Lord with gladness, come before his presence with singing, and Isaiah took up the lofty strain—the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come unto Zion with songs; and everlasting joy upon their heads, they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away, while heartfelt praise be acceptable to God, and the notes will be prolonged in heaven, where the new song of Moses and the Lamb will be sung by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands.

The experience of other churches has been that of this; for the first few years, with the exception of a small harmonicon, played by Mr. Wm. H. Ryder, there were no instruments employed; the singing was congregational, Brother C. T. Elles acting as precentor. About the year 1851 the first organ was procured, and Mrs. Ranney, who was an accomplished musician, first began to play. That organ was brought to the new church when the basement was used for worship, but was supplanted, in the year 1876, when our present pipe organ was built. Amongst those organists who have exercised their gift in the skilled use of this grand instrument may be mentioned Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Green, Mrs. Laturno, Mrs. Candel, Mrs. Phillips, Mrs. Rogers and Miss Bessie Rogers.

An excellent piano has also been purchased and now in use for the Sabbath school and the usual social meetings of the church. Mr. George D. Tufts and his sons have contributed their share in furnishing sacred music with voice, violin and cornet. While we have appropriated much of the later church music, such as is used by Messrs. Moody, Sankey, Phillips, Bliss and Ray Balmer, we are still endeared to those sterling old hymns of the fathers of church poetry, especially those of Watts, Wesley, Doddridge, Cowper, Newton and others, so full of gospel truth, and to which we are endeared by very many tender associations. Through a period of more than fifty-five years, many choirs have been formed, some composed of adults with cultivated voices, and at other times with the younger members, but all striving to sing with grace in their hearts. Quartets have touched the heavenly strings, and in strains almost divine have not only calmed the soul, but inspired the most devotional frame for worship. Solos have at times awakened feelings of rapture akin to those of heavenly birth, and we could almost fancy a prolongation of the song by the choir above.

We have had music artistic, sentimental, and occasionally not much of any, but, take it altogether, the requirements of the church have been met, and that part of divine service will compare favorably with the other parts of worship. Some voices, so full of harmony and sweetness to us, have been hushed on earth, that are now joining in the harmonies of heaven, and when we all pass over Jordan, may the glad refrain not only reach our ears, but may we be welcomed to their glorious company and companionship.

With profound thankfulness to the Captain of our salvation for the past, let us address ourselves to the future with united and loving hearts, praying God that He may revive us. His presence ever be with us and His mercy ever shadow us. May the future of this Church be more glorious than the past. Now unto Him who is able to keep you from falling and present you faultless before the presence of His Glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and ever, so pray.

CHARLES T. ELLES

EDWARD WM. WEST

Committee



In complying with a resolution adopted at the congregational meeting held November 10th, 1897, requesting Elders Elles and West to continue the history of this Church to the present date, we would state that, in reviewing the record already submitted, we find that an omission of the name and services of Brother Charles F. Noetling occurred, under the belief that they would be fully presented when the history of our Sabbath school was written up, and believing that his memory should be preserved, we add the following:

Mr. C. F. Noetling became a member of the Church by letter, July 19th, 1857. That upon the resignation of Elder Elles, after service of twenty-five years, he was elected Superintendent of our Sabbath school in 1868; and to that office he was elected annually until 1877, when he was succeeded by Gen. W. H. Powell. Through his influence the children of many German families were brought in, and by the liberal use of his own means, genial disposition and peculiar fitness for the work, kept up the school to a high standard of usefulness. By his own devotion he inspired fidelity in the teachers, and in the hearts of the scholars, a love for the Bible, respect for the Sabbath and the house of worship. His acts were without selfishness and with zeal for the cause of sowing good seed amongst the children of our city. When he retired from his labors he was followed by the best wishes of the parents, teachers and the whole school.

Resuming our narrative, we find that after a pastorate of about five years, Rev. J. B. Pomeroy tendered his resignation, July 1896, which was accepted by the congregation, and Rev. J. M. Beall preached the sermon by order of the Presbytery September 27, 1896, declaring the pulpit vacant. Rev. J. B. Pomeroy was a sound theologian. The preparation of his sermons, which were generally read, gave evidence of deep study and thought. While they were argumentative and finished in style, they breathed the true missionary spirit, he having spent a part of his ministerial life in South Dakota, where he witnessed the great need of the gospel amongst the settlers of the new country, and of the Indians who sought the blessings of civilization and religion.

On October 12th, 1896, a congregational meeting was held, when it was determined to give a call to Rev. J. G. Klene to become stated supply for one year. This invitation not being acceptable to him, another congregational meeting was held November 5th, 1896, inviting him to become pastor, which was accepted, and Elder West was appointed to represent the church at a called session of the Presbytery at East St. Louis, where it was ordered that as soon as his letter of dismissal from the Presbytery of Montana was received, and his name enrolled on the books of the Alton Presbytery, arrangements be made to consummate the prayer of the Belleville Church, Rev. J. G. Klene having expressed his willingness to accept the unanimous call. All impediments having been removed, in accordance with directions, the installation took place the third Thursday of

December, A. D. 1896, the Moderator, Rev. A. S. Leonard, presiding, Rev. C. N. Cate giving the charge to the people and Rev. D. R. Temple to the pastor.

Having thus brought down the history of the Church to this, the fifty-eighth anniversary of its organization, we are under an increased debt of gratitude to our God for His great mercy to us in its preservation, unity and peace through the many and discouraging trials through which it has passed; that our venerable and esteemed Brother C. T. Elles is still with us, with memory unimpaired by age, although he is in his eighty-ninth year, with unabated zeal for the church's welfare and prosperity, with a life unsullied by a stain, affording an example of Christian integrity worthy of imitation. And that after the experience of a year or more under the pastoral labors of brother J. G. Klene, the church has enjoyed temporal and spiritual prosperity; that peace, contentment and happiness have continually prevailed, and the spirit of unity binds us together this day. We mention with admiration the achievements of the members of the Utopian Society, an organization of ladies who meet once a month for social intercourse and mutual improvement. By the assessment of a sum from every member and invited friends, each month, and by fairs made popular by their pleasant address, they have succeeded in raising large amounts of money which they have expended most liberally in the purchase of carpets, chairs, hymn books, and seats for the comfort of the church and beautifying and embellishing its walls. Under the superintendency of Rev. H. A. Loring, with the aid of most efficient officers and competent teachers, the Sabbath school has experienced a gratifying enlargement and efficiency in all its departments, in the service of song led by Professor G. D. Tufts, in the commitment to memory of the sacred Scriptures, the good order and faithful attendance of the scholars, ours might be called a model school. Its treasury has also been filled, and besides provision made for a full supply of books, quarterlies, teachers and papers, donations have been made to the starving of India, and for other missionary purposes. The members of the Sewing Circle are still distinguished for their devotion to their laborious duties, and deserve the thanks of the entire church. The Senior and Junior Endeavor Societies are also in a wholesome condition. And a juvenile missionary society has been organized.

Walking in the spirit of meekness, with gratitude for the past and an unfaltering trust in the Captain of our Salvation, with charity toward all, this church today stands the advocate for good morals, the defender of law and order, the recognized opponent of vice and immorality. With kind feelings, and fraternal intercourse with the members of the other Christian denominations, we place ourselves under the protecting care of our Almighty Parent. Bound together with one heart, we trust that the First Presbyterian Church, of Belleville, may still be a light to the wandering, an asylum for many

devout believers who may be gathered within her folds, a spiritual home for its present members and an inheritance for our children's children. Holding up the standard for purity and sound doctrine, with abiding faith in the Word and promises of our God, may our church in the future be more glorious than in the past.

"And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea the work of our hands establish thou it."

C. T. ELLES,

EDWARD WM. WEST,

Committee.

The above report was adopted by the congregation.



1897 — 1902

At a meeting of the session, held October 26th, 1902, Elders Edward Wm. West and James McQuilkin were appointed a committee to bring down the record of the Church from the 10th of November, 1897, to the present time, with the intent to have the whole history of the Church published in pamphlet form, furnishing a number sufficient for every member.

In obedience to the request of the session, your committee would respectfully submit the following report:

That upon examination of the records and unwritten history of the Church we find that during the pastorate of Rev. J. G. Klene the affairs of the Church were well and prosperously administered, and the tender of his resignation, in July, 1898, was a great surprise to the session and membership. There were those in the Church who thought him impulsive, yet acceded to his request, while others deeply lamented the severance of those tender relations that they had hopes never would be dissolved during life. In recalling some of his prominent characteristics mention should be made of his firm and aggressive spirit of opposition to all forms of immorality in public and private life, and bold and fearless assaults against them. He was a brave man—true to his convictions. He did not consider his popularity or consequences to himself, but duty to God, and the cause of right inspired his high moral courage. He was a growing man, possessed of strong intellectual power. His sermons were of superior quality, practical, instructive and inspiring. His delivery was deeply earnest and attractive, speaking, generally, without notes. He sought the inspired Word for his theme, and, invoking the aid of the divine Spirit, presented the gospel in terms to reach the consciences of his hearers. He aimed to deepen the spirituality of the members of the Church, qualifying them for greater usefulness. He was too much of a student to fill all the duties of a pastor, and may have been lack-

ing in the exhibition of that sympathy that binds the hearts of one to another. As a reformer he was fearless and claimed the co-operation of his people. The congregation joined with him in the request to Presbytery, that the bonds be dissolved, which was granted, and Rev. J. N. Beall was appointed to declare the pulpit vacant, July 15, 1898.

In the following November 10th, 1898, the Rev. J. A. Gallaher was chosen to supply the pulpit as pastor, and Rev. Henry K. Sanborne presided over the installation services. Rev. Thomas Gallaher, D. D., his father, gave the charge to the people, and Rev. H. K. Sanborne to the pastor, who has still charge of the interest of the Church. Honored by Presbytery, he has filled the Moderator's chair, and as chairman and member of important committees he has inspired the Church to meet liberally the claims of the several boards to a gratifying extent. He has also served as commissioner from this (the Alton) Presbytery to the 114th General Assembly, that met in New York City in May, 1902, and as delegate to the State Synod that assembled in Joliet, 1899, and in Jacksonville in 1901. During his incumbency all the stated services of the Church have been faithfully observed, and no communion ordinance has passed without an addition to the roll of members.

A very satisfactory session of the Alton Presbytery was held here last spring, and an extensive revival, under the effective preaching of the distinguished and eloquent evangelist, Rev. Dr. Wharton, with the aid of Rev. C. D. Shumard of the M. E. Church, Rev. E. J. Brownson of the Baptist, and J. A. Gallaher of this Church.

At a meeting of the session a resolution was adopted that at Easter and Thanksgiving each year voluntary offerings shall be asked to cancel all claims against the church, and that on the 23rd day of November, 1902, the heart of the pastor and people was made glad by the liberal contributions from the members and congregation that were sufficient to pay off every debt to that date.

At present all the societies identified with the interest of the Church are in effective working order, namely, the Utopian, the Parthenian, Ladies' Aid, Young Ladies' Missionary, and Christian Endeavor Society. The Sabbath school is well conducted, with an enrollment of 300 scholars, a full corps of efficient officers and devoted teachers, including infant department and Bible class.

A deep interest has been taken and effective labor has been performed by this Church, with others, in the organization and development of the Young Men's Christian Association of Belleville.

The total enrollment of the Church since its organization we find to be 711, with 134 active members at the present time. The Church has now five active Elders: Elder Edward William West, ordained and installed January 2nd, 1876; James McQuilkin, April 30th, 1878; and

Elders William H. Powell, C. C. Johnson and Samuel P. Hyde, November 5th, 1893.

James Affleck was the Last Deacon, and we would recommend the election of others, recognizing the duties appertaining to the office, in taking care of the poor of the church, and the management of its temporal affairs.

The Board of Trustees is composed of Messrs. C. C. Johnson, J. D. Rentchler and James McQuilkin.

In closing this chapter, our hearts are grieved to record the death of three of our most venerated and esteemed members, who have fallen asleep and have been called from their earthly labors to receive their reward in heaven.

Deacon James Affleck departed this life April 17th, 1902, honored and respected by all who knew him, in his eighty-ninth year.

Mrs. Emma L. Halbert, daughter of Elder William H. Underwood and Elizabeth, his wife, died January 31, 1902. Her whole-hearted devotion to the interest of the Church was recognized, and more especially for the children, having been for twenty-four years the superintendent of the primary department of the Sabbath school, winning the appreciation of the entire school and Church by her long-tried and effective work. Her labors were greatly blessed and she lived to see many coming under her charge as infants, passing out to the higher grades, becoming, in time, teachers in the school, and members of the Church, prepared to go forth as citizens capable of filling useful stations in public and private life, and her labors and example are cherished as a rich legacy to this Church.

In profound grief we bow as we record the departure of our senior Elder, Elder Charles T. Elles, who entered into rest January 19, 1902, in the ninety-second year of his age. In the providence of God he was raised up for a great and needed work, as he was the father, almost, of our Church and Sunday school, and the work performed and sacrifices made by Him entitle his memory to our lasting gratitude. His humility, his gentleness, unselfishness, untiring patience, purity of life, integrity of purpose and genial piety have shed a luster on the Christian profession, and as an example is worthy of imitation by every member of the Church and disciple of Christ.

To this list might be added the name of Mrs. James McQuilkin. Her devotion to the Church was unceasing, her labors more abundant, and whose record was bright and beautiful in the light of heaven, and sacred in our memories.

The work of the Lord is honorable and glorious, and He still spares other faithful laborers in His vineyard, for which we give him our hearts' adoration and praise.

"The helm of the universe is held by Infinite Wisdom, Love and Power," and though the worker falls, his work is continued.

Moses dies, but Joshua is raised up to bring the children of Israel into the promised land.

May the mantle of the faithful departed fall in double portion upon this present and succeeding membership, and may it be said of this Church: "Happy art thou, O Israel, who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

EDWARD WM. WEST,

JAMES McQUILKIN,

Committee.

The above report was approved and the whole was ordered to be printed.

JAMES McQUILKIN, Clerk



1902 — 1914

There was an anniversary edition, official directory and year book issued on our 75th Anniversary, December 14, 1914. Rev. Charles A. Highfield, Pastor rewriting the history and bringing same up to date, he continues:

In November, 1898, Rev. J. A. Gallaher was called to serve this church. Under his leadership a union meeting was held, and Dr. Wharton was invited to do the preaching. Great numbers thronged the church to hear this man of God and many were convicted of sin and converted and united with some branch of the Church. The Boards of the Church were well cared for during the pastorate of Rev. Gallaher. Not one Board failed to receive an offering each year from our church. The music was never better cared for than while Mr. Gallaher was here. It was under his direction that the choir did such splendid work. Rev. Gallaher had the pleasure of receiving seventy-seven into full communion with this church.

Rev. J. A. Gallaher is the pastor of our church at Owensboro, Ky., at the present time.

The Rev. W. M. Gardner was invited to take charge of the church in 1904 and continued as pastor until December, 1908. All the people say Rev. Gardner was a good preacher. Sixty-two united with the church during his pastorate.

Rev. W. M. Gardner, D. D., is pastor of the Arkansas City Presbyterian Church, Kansas. Recently he had the pleasure of dedicating a fine church edifice.

Rev. Charles A. Highfield, who recently returned from Montana on account of sickness in the family, was invited to supply the pulpit until a pastor could be secured. On May 1st, 1909, Mrs. Nutting, mother of Mrs. Highfield, took her departure for the Heavenly home. The congregation then extended a unanimous call to the Rev. Charles A. Highfield to become their pastor and he with his family moved to Belleville in August.

In May, 1909, the pastor, in company with Mr. Geo. D. Tufts, spent a day in Swansea calling on the people. We ascertain that there was not any service of a religious character held north of the St. George's Episcopal Church in Belleville. The people of Swansea were called together on the following Sunday in the school house on the hill, and a school was organized. We continued work in the school house for a year when it seemed wise to provide a building better adapted to the needs of the school. Through the generosity of Mr. Anthony Ittner, of St. Louis, we were able to purchase the old smelter building at the extreme north of Swansea. Some of the partitions were removed and by so doing we were able to have an auditorium seating comfortably one hundred and fifty, and three pleasant rooms for class work. The building has been repainted both inside and outside, and makes a very pleasant and comfortable place to worship. This property is held by the trustees of our church until such time as an organization will be completed. The property is easily worth two thousand dollars, and is paid, except for two hundred dollars, which will be due July 25, 1915. This building was dedicated in October, 1910. Through this Mission many have been brought under the influence of the Gospel. The pastor holds a service each Sabbath afternoon in the Swansea Chapel.

The Home school is one of influence and power. It seems as if nearly all with whom we come in touch have at some time during the past seventy-five years been affiliated with our schools. For the past three years we have had the distinction of being the largest school in Alton Presbytery.

To secure a larger and more regular attendance on the part of the scholars and the teachers, "Little's Cross and Crown" system was introduced five years ago last October. This plan was so successful that the school decided to continue the same plan for another five years. Ten of our scholars have been present every Sunday for five consecutive years. Mrs. Kolb is Superintendent of the Main room and is ably assisted by twenty efficient teachers.

The primary department has a membership of over two hundred under nine years of age. The graded lessons are used and the five year course is followed; two years for the "Beginners," and three

years Primary work. Mrs. Highfield is the Superintendent of this department, and is enthusiastically supported by eight teachers and assistants.

We have a large Cradle Roll department, superintended by Mrs. Mamer.

State workers who have visited the Primary department, say; "The best in Southern Illinois."

The Christian Endeavor Society of Young People is changeable. Those who were the leaders a few years ago have withdrawn and the younger ones have taken the place of those experienced in Christian service.

Constantly new recruits are being brought in and trained for service.

The church can boast of three organizations; the Ladies' Aid, Utopians and the Parthenians. These have done much to beautify the church property and give material assistance, when the men were unable to meet the demands made upon the church funds. This has been done so often, that we fear the men have been spoiled and have forgotten how to secure the needed help, and they are inclined to say: "Let the women do the work."

May Heaven's richest benediction rest upon the good women of our church.

When the present pastor took up the work here the church had one hundred and twenty members. Up to the time of going to press one hundred and seventy-three have been added to the membership roll since the present relations were consummated between pastor and people. Notwithstanding the large increase, the church has suffered by removal and by death. Those who were artists in instrumental music have been called to other fields of usefulness. Those who were leaders in song have joined the Choir Celestial or removed to other portions of the country. Others have been called to give an account of their stewardship and are no more. We miss all the faithful ones and wish they could be with us again to encourage us in service. No one has taken the place of dear Mrs. Elles. She was one of the faithful. The weather was never too hot or too cold or too stormy to keep Mrs. Elles away from the Sanctuary. If her friends prevailed on her to remain at home on account of storm, the world was not just right. The dinner did not taste so good, nor the friends about her so congenial. Going to church was the habit of her life and when deprived of that privilege she felt it keenly.

Other members who have been called to their reward during the present pastorate are Mrs. Jennie Badgley, Mrs. Ralph, Miss Augusta Thebus, Frederick Cullom Aull, D. S. Elliott, Mrs. McClintock, Mrs. Jennie Scott, Dr. John Stookey and H. R. Heimberger. "They rest in peace!"

Much improvement has been made on the church property. A new concrete walk has been laid in front of the church and back to the Manse in the rear of the church. A new cistern and filter have been constructed. A hot air furnace placed in the manse, and the house repainted on the outside and repainted and repapered on the inside. New coal range and gas range have been placed in the kitchen. The church has been repainted on the outside and the Sunday school rooms have been redecorated. New hymn books have been purchased for the church and Sunday school. The pipe organ has been rebuilt and a better quality of tone cannot be produced in any modern organ. An up-to-date motor takes the place of the "pumper boy." A piano has been placed in the auditorium, the gift of the Utopians. A good heating plant has been placed in the church and connected with a chimney which allows the smoke to pass out through the top instead of through the furnace and the church and out of the windows if the janitor had been so careless as to leave some of them open. Many other improvements have been made.

It may be of interest to some to know how much money has been used for the support of the work at home and abroad.

We have given to the Boards of the church since April 1st, 1909, \$1,368.

To the General Assembly fund, \$160.09.

For local support and improvement on church property, \$14,315.96.

Making a grand total of \$16,849.95.

The figures given represent only in part the work which has been done in the name of the Master. The efforts put forth to introduce Christ to men are beyond a money value.

Results would have been greater if all the people had worked.

However, we are proud of the history which has been made by the Presbyterians associated with this organization.

The trials have been many; some problems have been hard to solve; some obstacles hard to surmount; but always a nucleus of men and women who had the grit and grace to conquer. The Presbyterian Church in the past has been instrumental in giving the Gospel to a great company at Home and Abroad. In numbers the church is stronger than at any time in the past, and therefore should be more efficient in the Master's work.

There is great need of full dedication of self to the work of the church. Because of the gigantic indifference of nominal Christians to the call of Christ, we appeal to the Presbyterians of to-day to be as loyal to the church as the most faithful of the past have been.

The glory of the past is not sufficient. We must face the future boldly and make a more glorious record than those of the past, because we stand on their shoulders. May we make it our daily habit to read the Word of God and to pray. Our practice to attend all the regular ordinances of the Sanctuary and grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

And now may Heaven's richest benediction rest upon you and your church and guide you in the way of truth. And may you at the end of your earthly journey hear the plaudit: "Well Done!"

REV. CHAS. A. HIGHFIELD



1914 — 1939

A quarter of a century has passed since the last record of the church was published and at the request of the Centennial Committee, this committee was appointed to recall the important events of the years which bring this grand old organization to the close of one hundred years. Centennial year is upon us and it is fitting that we look back and count our blessings. Time and tide wait for no man—there have been many good men and women who have come and gone in the past twenty-five years.

Mention is made of many improvements on the church property. A short time later the auditorium was redecorated at a cost of \$2,700. Upon the death of a faithful member, Miss Betty Cook, it was found that she had willed the sum of \$1,000 to the church. As the windows in the auditorium were in a bad condition, the suggestion was made to have them replaced with beautiful art glass memorial windows, these to be paid for by the different families and organizations in the church. Rev. Highfield took it upon himself to secure these pledges and the following names are found on them. The largest window bears the name of Miss Betty Cook. The others are—"Presented 1916", Parthenian, Sunshine Class 1916, Elles, God is Love (Sahlender Family), Presented by Sunday School, McQuilkin, Jane E. Rainey, Burns, Utopian, Affleck, Tufts, Russell Hinckley, Hugh Brown, Primary, Jeanette Dintelman, Liberty, Judge William H. Underwood, Emma Underwood Halbert, Frick, Rogers, Heimberger, Frederick C. Aull, Gass, Emma Ralph, Ladies Aid Society, West, Eugene (Twenhoefel) and Missionary Society.

The good man who wrote the preceding record severed his ties with this church on the twenty-first day of November, 1917, moving with his family to Erie, Pennsylvania

Presbytery having dissolved this pastorate several ministers were heard and the congregation chose Rev. W. N. Elliot who came from Peoria, Ill., April 3, 1918. Rev. Elliot stayed with us one short year, when he asked to be released from this pastorate. He gave up his work as a minister and entered the employ of the Ford Automobile Company as a counsellor at Detroit, Mich. It was said of him that it was an intellectual as well as a spiritual treat to listen to him.

Next came Rev. E. W. McCluskey from Granite City, Ill., Presbyterian Church on Jan. 1, 1920. His family consisted of his wife, son and three charming daughters. The eldest, Miss Dorothy, was married to Victor Koenig of Granite City, Ill., at a large wedding in the church with her father and the groom's father performing the ceremony. The second daughter, Miss Lillian, also was married in the church to Russell Stanley, son of the late Mrs. Agnes Stanley.

Under Rev. McCluskey's able ministry the church grew and the membership increased. Among the men prominent in the affairs of the church were—William Hoehner, Jacob Aull, R. A. Alexander, Robert Seibert, Henry Lengfelder, Dr. John Gunn, Frank Niess, Judge R. D. W. Holder, William Bien and others. It was upon the suggestion of Mr. Bien that the pastor and the choir wear vestments and use a processional. Mr. Bien donated the material for the vestments and the ladies of the Utopian Society under the direction of Mrs. Herman Sikkema cut and made the garments. This form of opening and closing the Sunday morning service was so pleasing and satisfactory that it is still in use.

After serving a period of two years, Rev. McCluskey resigned to accept the pastorate of the church at Lebanon, Ill., which church he was serving at the time of his death several years later.

Many applicants were heard and the choice fell upon Rev. W. C. Meeker of Pana, Ill. Rev. Meeker and Mrs. Meeker and son, Cornelius arrived in this city Sept. 21, 1922. With the change of pastors, new spirit was put into the congregation and plans were made to purchase a new organ. The original organ built by the Gratian Organ Company of Alton, Ill., had served its time. So at a cost of \$10,000, a new Kilgen built by the St. Louis firm of that name was installed in the auditorium of the church. After more than fifteen years it is still considered by local musicians to be the finest pipe organ in Belleville. It has a set of Deagan chimes which the organist uses at the opening of the Sunday morning service which is very effective, as this building has never had a bell in its belfry. According to the custom of the time the organ was built to fill the chancel end of the church, using many large decorative pipes, the console being placed to the right or north end of the pulpit platform. The purchase price of the organ was considered by some to be a bit expensive; nevertheless, the possession of this lovely instrument in our church has proved to be a blessing as many happy and soul-inspiring hours have been

enjoyed both by performers and listeners. Mrs. R. A. Alexander was the organist when this organ was installed and gave many fine numbers. Miss Viola Niess has been the organist since September, 1933. She has proved herself capable of handling it at all times.

It was while the organ was being built that Rev. Meeker was elected a commissioner to the General Assembly of our church in San Francisco, Cal.

In the summer of 1924, the congregation observed the Fiftieth Anniversary of the building of the church edifice, with special ceremonies. About this time a movement was begun to accept the offer of the City Board of Education to purchase the manse for \$5,000 for an office and the congregation to buy the Edward Abend home adjoining the church property on the south for a manse. Some obstacles were encountered and the transaction did not go through.

We found in Rev. Meeker a good shepherd and his wife endeared herself to all. As young Cornelius was finishing high school and Rev. Meeker felt that his labors in Belleville were finished, he accepted a call to the church at Jacksonville, Ill., which change gave Cornelius the opportunity of attending Illinois College in that city. Rev. Meeker is still pastor of that church. Cornelius graduated in medicine from Washington University in St. Louis and is connected with Barnes Hospital in that city.

After the departure of Rev. Meeker and family, May 1, 1929, the congregation was without a pastor until Rev. D. C. Boyd of the Manor Church, St. Louis, Mo., accepted our call on Oct. 11, 1929. He brought his family consisting of Mrs. Boyd, his father, son Robert and daughters, Jean and Barbara to Belleville and preached his first sermon on Nov. 10, 1929.

On December 14, 1929, the Ninetieth Anniversary of the Church celebrated with a six o'clock dinner on the lower floor followed by an elaborate entertainment upstairs in which was the modeling of many wedding gowns of the past and present. Some were worn by the owners and others by friends of the owners. Noticeable among these latter was the lovely ivory white satin gown belonging to Mrs. George B. M. Rogers. This gown was worn by Mrs. Rogers at her wedding to Mr. Rogers in the church on Dec. 1, 1885 at four o'clock in the afternoon. Their family is Georgana, wife of Arthur Jones and Irene, wife of Kenneth Wagner—all active in the affairs of the church.

Again this church was honored by having its pastor elected to represent the Presbytery at the General Assembly—this year at Philadelphia. Rev. Boyd and his good wife have done much for the young people of the community by organizing a Tuxis Society, for high school students of sophomore age and older, which meets Sunday evening in the church.

As we look back these twenty-five years, we find among those who have passed away—Elder Frank Niess, father of our organist and a man of sterling qualities; Dr. John Gunn, who was made an Elder to fill the vacancy caused by the passing of his father, Dr. A. B. Gunn; Henry A. Lengfelder, an active trustee; Judge R. D. W. Holder, another Elder, who lived to the ripe age of ninety years; William Hoehner, who served as treasurer of the church for many years. Among the active women of the church, we note the passing of Mrs. William Schmidt, Jr., May 11, 1938, who was serving as president of the Utopian Society and Mrs. Agnes Stanley who gave generously of her time for work in the women's organizations.

We would not omit a single name from those who have been active in the church, so let us ask you to go over the names of the members of the several boards of the church—the Elders, who have charge of the spiritual affairs of the church; the Deacons, who tend to the needy of our members; the Trustees, who are the custodians of the property and finances of the church. You will find all of them interested and ready to share their part of the work of the church. Their wives and families are members of the different church organizations. We dare not mention any one particular man or woman who is especially outstanding, lest we omit another.

Let us carry on the grand work which was started one hundred years ago. The men, women and children of that day did not have the modern automobile in which to ride to church nor the comfortable building in which to worship. They were God-fearing and revered the house in which they worshiped. At the time of closing this record extensive repairs and improvements are being made on the building and as we pass into the new century it is with an assurance that our church building will still stand as imposing as when it was built sixty-five years ago as a symbol of Presbyterian faith in the community.

Respectfully submitted

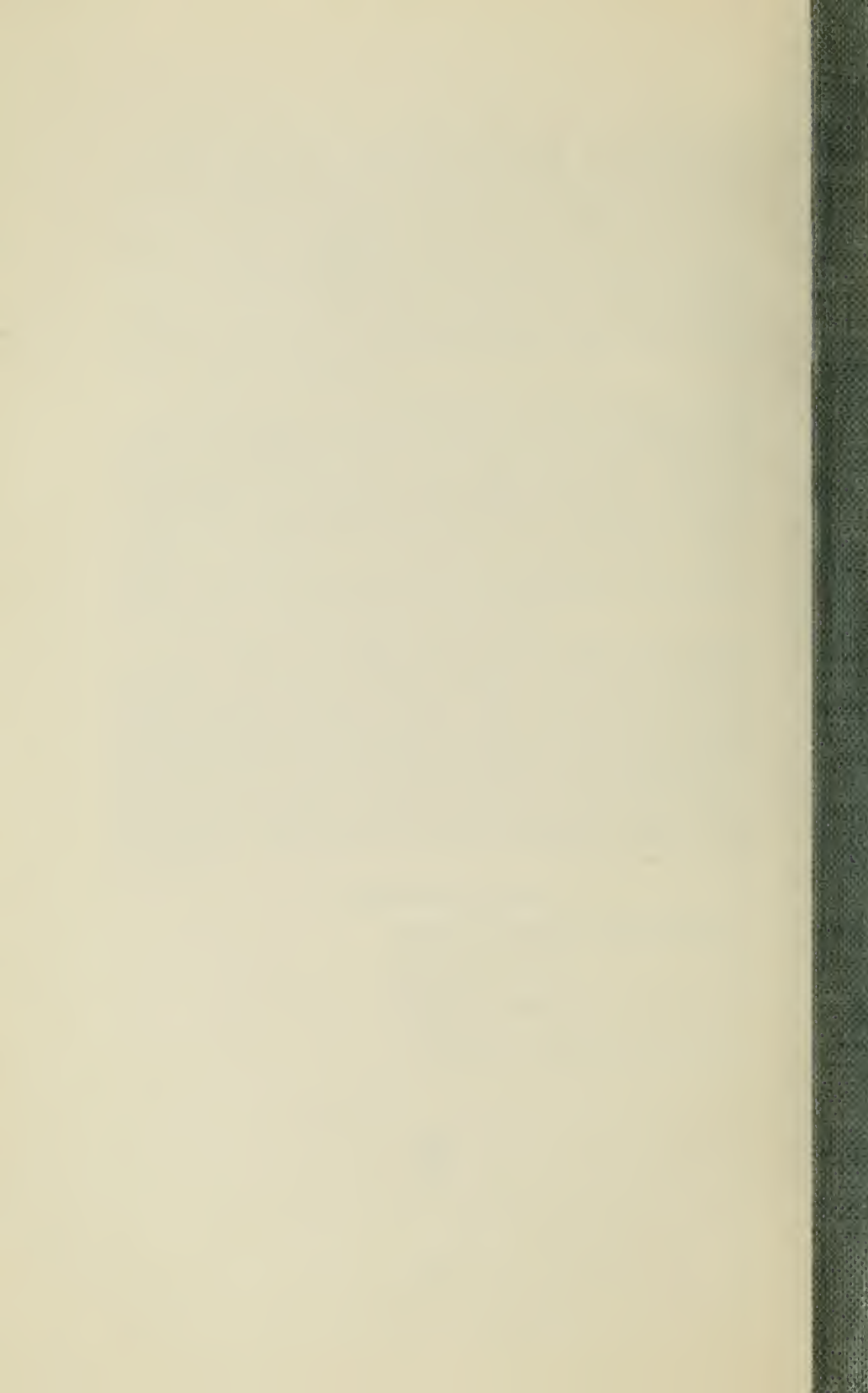
MARTHA McQUILKIN TWENHOEFEL,

MARGARET GUNN,

ROGERS D. JONES,

Members of Centennial Committee.



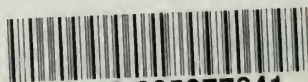


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